

YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A

# ANNUAL REPORT



of the

*Medical Officer of Health*

DR. J. TATE, M.B., B.CH., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

and

*Sanitary Inspector*

W. EMLYN JONES, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

For the year 1955



# The Medical Officer's Report

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To: The Chairman and Members of the Council:

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the health and sanitation of the Rural District of Ystradgynlais for the year 1955.

The general health of the district during the year has been very good. There was an absence of any serious outbreaks of infectious disease. No cases of food poisoning were reported. The number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been very low, and cases occurring have been adequately and quickly isolated in Talgarth Chest Hospital for males, and the Adelina Patti Memorial Hospital for females.

*Food Hygiene.* Frequent routine inspections have been carried out to the various food handling stores, bakehouses, licensed premises, school canteens and dining halls, works canteens and shops selling ice cream under licence. Minor defects were pointed out and corrected by those in charge. It has not been necessary to take legal proceedings.

*Housing.* The problem of rehousing of people from unfit houses and providing homes for the young married couples is still a serious one. The Council is energetically pressing on with the building of new houses. The allocation of these houses is carried out under a points scheme. Additional points are allocated to a family having a case of Tuberculosis living with them. Special consideration is given to those families where a case of active pulmonary tuberculosis is occupying the same bedroom with another healthy person.

Number of houses built by the Council 1920 — 1955: 967

Number of houses built by the Council 1945 — 1955: 558

Number of houses built by the Council during 1955: 48

The School Medical Service and the provision of school meals is carried out by the County Council.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are also administered by the County Council.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47. No legal action has been necessary under this Section during the year.

I wish to tender my best thanks to the Council for their helpful consideration and co-operation in all matters appertaining to Public Health during the year. Also to the Officers of the Council for their help and consideration in all matters connected with the Public Health Department.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant.

J. TATE, M.B., B.CH., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

## WATER SUPPLY

There are seven piped water supplies in the area, five of which are chlorinated. The water has been satisfactory in quality and quantity and every house has its own piped supply except in the case of some few scattered dwellings such as isolated farms. No water supply in the district is liable to plumbo solvent action. There has been no evidence of any form of contamination. The number of the population supplied from the public water mains direct to their houses is 11,604. There are no stand pipe supplies.

Appended is a list of bacteriological examination carried out:—

<i>Date</i>	<i>Water Supply</i>			<i>Result</i>
13/1/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
13/1/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
13/1/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
26/1/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
26/1/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
26/1/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory

<i>Date</i>		<i>Water Supply</i>		<i>Result</i>
26/1/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
9/2/55	...	Penwyllt	...	Satisfactory
2/3/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
2/3/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
2/3/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
2/3/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
16/3/55	...	Penwyllt	...	Satisfactory
13/4/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
13/4/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
13/4/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
4/5/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
4/5/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
4/5/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
4/5/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
8/6/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
8/6/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
8/6/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
8/6/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
27/6/55	...	Nantmarl	...	Unsatisfactory
14/7/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
15/7/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
15/7/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
15/7/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
31/8/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
31/8/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
31/8/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
31/8/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
7/9/55	...	Nantmarl	...	Unsatisfactory
5/10/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
5/10/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Unsatisfactory
5/10/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Doubtful
5/10/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
26/10/55	...	Colbren	...	Unsatisfactory
26/10/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Unsatisfactory
26/10/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Unsatisfactory
26/10/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Unsatisfactory
9/11/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
9/11/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
9/11/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
9/11/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
29/11/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory

<i>Date</i>		<i>Water Supply</i>		<i>Result</i>
29/11/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory
29/11/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
29/11/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
14/12/55	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory
14/12/55	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory
14/12/55	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory
14/12/55	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory

## SEWERAGE

The whole of the district is on main drainage with one sewerage disposal works. The disposal plant has been working normally and the sewerage effluent complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission.

## STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

The district consists of two Parishes, Ystradgynlais Higher and Ystradgynlais Lower their respective areas 13,182 and 9,016, a total of 22,198 acres.

Population: 11,530.

Industries: Ystradgynlais Lower is more industrial in nature than Ystradgynlais Higher and is more thickly populated. The chief industries are coal mining, watch making, light engineering and furniture manufacture, quarrying and agriculture.

## VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Births:—

· Total: 170; 168 legitimate; 2 illegitimate.

Males: 91; 90 legitimate; 1 illegitimate.

Females: 79; 78 legitimate; 1 illegitimate.

(b) Still Births: Males 1; Females 3.

Showing a Birth Rate of 14.7 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths: Total 131; Males: 73; Females: 58.

Being a death rate of 11.4 per 1,000 of the population.

Causes of Death:—						Males	Females
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Tuberculosis (other forms)	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Cancer of Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Cancer of Lung	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Cancer; Other sites	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	...	...	...	...	...	8	17
Coronary Disease	...	...	...	...	...	13	5
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	9	11
Other Circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	5
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Ulcer of Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Other Respiratory Disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Hyperlasia	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7	5
Motor Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Total ...						73	58

#### Chief Notifiable Diseases:—

Measles	...	...	...	109	Poliomyelitis	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	5	Erysipelas	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	Dysentery	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	Paratyphoid B.	...	...	0
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	9	Gastric Enteritis	...	...	0
Meningitis	...	...	...	1	Puerpural pyrexia	...	...	0
Salmonella	...	...	...	0				

### TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases Notified:—						Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	2



Deaths :—						Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1

The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low. 9 new cases were notified during the year. All the cases were visited and advised as to isolation pending admission to Sanatoria. The waiting period was of short duration and they were all dealt with expeditiously by the Chest Physician for the area.

Local Health Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are carried out by the Brecon County Council and have worked efficiently.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

General Medical—Dr. A. F. Sladden, Beek Laboratory, General Hospital, Swansea.

Water Supplies—Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.

Milk—Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.

## HOSPITAL SERVICES

Hospital Accommodation.

Infectious Diseases — The Infectious diseases Hospital is situated at Hill House, Swansea, and is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

General Hospital Facilities — General Hospital Facilities are provided for at Swansea General Hospital, Morriston Hospital, and the West Glamorgan Hospital at Neath, all of which are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Ambulance Services — There are two Ambulances stationed in the district and they are under the control of the Brecon County Council.



# The Sanitary Inspector's Report

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1955.

48 families were rehoused, 37 at the new site at Henneuadd, Abercrave, and the remaining 11 at Heol Philip, Gurnos. The opening of the new site at Henneuadd is another milestone in the Council's rehousing programme and it is to be earnestly hoped that the tenants at this beautiful site will show sufficient civic pride to maintain the glorious open space in the centre of the layout so that it can be a lasting benefit to them all.

During the year a survey of unfit houses was carried out in compliance with the requirements of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and the proposals were sent to the Ministry by the date specified in the Ministry Circular 55/54. The Survey showed that 92 houses call for demolition and to assess our present housing need some 193 of the most needy families on our housing list should be added together with 10 families per year for 5 years for correcting the foregoing figure of 193. This gives a total of 335 families for rehousing which puts our annual need at 67 or approximately 70 houses per annum for the next 5 years. This should be a task well within the power of a progressive Housing Authority like our own.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,

Sanitary Inspector.

## GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Housing Inspections and Re-inspections (Housing Acts and Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	...	1285
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	22
Drainage	...	...	...	...	56

Housing Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	683
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Dairies and Milk Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## FOOD PREMISES

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Street Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sampling Visits :—									
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Meat Inspection visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
									1285

## Inspection of Dwellinghouses

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected during the year (Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	534
(b) Number of inspections for the purposes ...	683

## Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	11
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## Action Under Statutory Powers During Year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs. ... ..	11
2. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices ... ..	2
(a) By Owners ... ..	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0
(b) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	0
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	0
(3) Number of dwellinghouses closed in pursuance of undertaking given by owners under Section 11.	5
(4) Statutory Notices served under Water Act. ...	0
(5) Number complied with ... ..	0
(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1. Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	0
2. Number of Separate tenants in underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit ... ..	0

## NOTICES SERVED

### Under the Housing Acts :

Number of Informal Notices served ... ..	0
Number of Informal Notices complied with ... ..	0
Number of Formal Notices served ... ..	0
Number of Formal Notices complied with ... ..	0

### Under the Public Health Acts :

Number of Informal Notices ... ..	29
Number of Informal Notices complied with ... ..	16
Number of Formal Notices served ... ..	11
Number of Formal Notices complied with ... ..	10

## *PUBLIC CLEANSING*

With the addition of only 48 new houses during the year the refuse collection service was easily maintained at 3 collections weekly throughout the district with the exception of the main shopping centre where daily collections were made. The Karrier Bantam lorries again have given satisfactory service and the standby Fordson, although now in its tenth year is still available when needed and gives excellent service to the Surveyor's Department. Tipping is maintained at Pantmawr, Penycae, Brynderi and Colbren Farm, and at the last mentioned two tips the work of filling in waste ground and dangerous pools continues satisfactorily. No serious complaints were received during the year in respect of any of the Council's tips, rodents have been kept down to a minimum and no serious nuisances due to tip fires have occurred. The loads and tonnage collected compare with those of last year being 3136 loads comprising a tonnage of 8833.

## *DISINFECTION*

9 houses were disinfected during the year following cases of infectious disease and although this is an increase of 5 on last year's figure it is still satisfactorily small and a fair reflection on how low the incidence of infectious disease is in our locality. Free disinfectant was distributed for the use of the householders concerned to wash down the premises in addition to fumigation by formalin gas.

## *DISINFESTATION*

4 houses were disinfested and of these only one was dealt with on account of being verminous and dirty. This was a case of a Council tenant wishing to exchange houses with another tenant and an incident of this nature appertaining to one of our tenants is so rare that it may warrant noticing. I would again repeat this year that the standard of cleanliness in Council houses is very satisfactory and systematic infectious visits brings forth only a very occasional bad tenant. The very small number of unsatisfactory tenants are continuously kept under observation.

## MILK SUPPLY

The following have been registered as Dealers and Distributors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations :—

Dealers T.T. ... ..	4	Supplementary Steri-	
Dealers Pasteurised ...	13	lised ... ..	1
Supplementary Pasteur-		Dealers Sterilised ...	5
ised ... ..	2	Distributors ... ..	13

Milk delivery vans were regularly inspected and were always found to be satisfactorily kept. During the year 45 samples of Milk were sent for analysis, only 2 of which were found to be unsatisfactory. Of these samples 15 were taken from Schools and all these were satisfactory.

## SEWAGE EFFLUENT

2 samples of effluent were taken at the Council's Sewage Works prior to being discharged into the River Tawe and on these the Public Analyst summarised as follows :—

*Sample No. 1.* (January 20th, 1955). This effluent was highly satisfactory and complied with the General Standard recommended in the Eighth Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal for an effluent fit for discharge into a stream or river.

*Sample No. 2.* (July 9th, 1955). This is a satisfactory effluent most of the organic matter having been oxidized. It complied with the Royal Commission Standards both as regards suspended matter and biochemical oxygen demand.

2 samples of water were also taken from the River Tawe, one from above the sewage outfall and the other from below and both samples were taken at the end of a very long period of drought when the level of the River Tawe was lower than it had been within living memory. On these samples the Analyst reported :—

“The foregoing results show that river water No. 1 (above outfall works) may be classified as “Clean” whereas No. 2 must be classified as “Doubtful.” These samples were taken when the flow of the river was abnormally low

owing to drought. It is probable that under conditions of normal flow the figure of 0.4 for B.O.D. would not be exceeded."

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

A full report of the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, was made to you in preparation of their coming into force on 1st January, 1956. A digest of these provisions was circularised at the end of the year to all persons engaged in the handling of Food. 106 visits were made to food premises for all purposes under the Act including 37 visits to Industrial and School Canteens. No cause arose to make an adverse complaint in respect of any of these canteens during the year. Butchers shops, Fried Fish shops, sausages and ice-cream manufacturing premises were constantly kept under supervision and the comparative small number of these premises in our district rendered possible a satisfactory supervision and contributed much to the lack of any serious complaints coming from this direction.

The following articles of food were condemned as unfit for consumption:—

Bovril: 1 Tin.	Sausages: 11 lbs.
Bacon: 47 lbs.	Tomatces: 22 Tins.
Baked Beans: 8 Tins.	Tinned Meat: 38 Tins.
Beef: 487 lbs.	Tinned Fish: 4 Tins.
Cheese: 20 lbs.	Tinned Fruit: 144 Tins.
Cooked Ham: 122 lbs.	Tinned Milk: 59 Tins.
Jam: 28 Tins.	Tinned Peas: 8 Tins.
Lard: 2 lbs.	Turkey: 26 lbs.

ICE CREAM. No. of premises registered:—

(a) For Manufacture ... ..	4
(b) For Sale of Ice Cream ... ..	29

## BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF ICE CREAM

No. of Samples submitted ... ..	24
No. of Samples in Grade 1 ... ..	12
No. of Samples in Grade 2 ... ..	8
No. of Samples in Grade 3 ... ..	2
No. of Samples in Grade 4 ... ..	2



It is encouraging to note that half the number of samples taken were placed in Grade 1, and only 2 in Grade 4. This is a marked improvement on last year's figures. As already stated premises were systematically inspected and no complaints were found with the condition of the premises and the methods used were in accordance with the requirements of the Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations.

## *HOUSING*

48 families were rehoused during the year in 44 houses and 4 flats. 37 houses were situated at Henneuadd, Abercrave, and 7 houses and 4 flats at Heol Philip, Gurnos. 2 of the flats were allocated to Old Age Pensioners and 2 to couples with small families. Of the families rehoused at Abercrave 5 of these were removed from houses whose condition warranted action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and undertakings were accepted from the owners not to relet them. The repair of old houses was not neglected and in all 26 houses were repaired as the result of formal and informal notices.

## **SLUM CLEARANCE**

### **Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 Survey of Unfit Houses**

1. The above Act requires the Council to submit for the Minister's approval proposals for dealing in one way or another with the houses in their area which appear to them to be unfit for human habitation and liable for demolition. The proposals are to be submitted by 31st August, 1955, and in the form prescribed by Appendix 11 of Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 55/54. The form makes it clear that the Minister does not expect more than an estimate of the total number of unfit houses in the Council's area and of the period the Council think they will need to secure the demolition of all those houses together with the Council's programme of action in relation to these houses during the next five years.

2. It is pointed out in Circular 55/54 that it is quite possible that the Council's first appreciation of the size of



their problem and of the time they will need to cope with it may need amendment and Section 1 of the Act accordingly enables them to do this. The data therefore furnished in this report and any decisions taken by the Council in consequence thereof may not be regarded as irrevocable, for modifications or amplifications can, and probably will, be made. Fortunately, our problem is a comparatively small one, but the present need is for a global picture and a plan of action for the next five years rather than a detailed report on insanitary houses and areas.

3. To assist the Council in deciding upon their course of action I beg to submit for your consideration a list of dwellinghouses in your area which the Medical Officer and myself consider to be unfit for human habitation. In compiling this list of unfit houses due regard has been taken of the legal standard of fitness set out in Sec. 9 (1) of the Act which, for your information and guidance, states as follows:

“ Standard of fitness for human habitation and provisions connected therewith. In determining for any of the purposes of the principal Act whether a house is unfit for human habitation, regard shall be had to its condition in respect of the following matters, that is to say:—

- (a) Repair.
- (b) Stability.
- (c) freedom from damp.
- (d) natural lighting.
- (e) ventilation.
- (f) water supply.
- (g) drainage and sanitary conveniences and
- (h) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water;

and the house shall be deemed to be unfit as aforesaid if and only if it is so far defective in one or more of the said matters that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition.”

It will be noted that action in respect of such houses is still to be taken under Sec. 11 or 25 of the 1936 Act and

that the owner still has the right of appeal, either to a County Court or to the Ministry as the case may be. I would also respectfully point out that this Section is much more specific and less general than Sec. 11 of the Principal Act and consequently one will have to exercise greater care perhaps in the presentations of old houses for the Council's consideration.

4. As already stated our problem is a comparatively small one and it will be noted that the number of houses recommended for demolition is 92. We are in this happy position on account of three factors :

- (1) Generally speaking Ystradgynlais is a comparatively new place, and it will be noted that many of the listed houses are found in the only part of the district that dates back to the early days of the industrial revolution.
- (2) To no small measure is it due to the vigorous manner in which the local authority has carried out its rehousing responsibilities between the Wars and afterwards. Houses allowed to remain overcrowded for a long time tend to dilapidate quicker and a realistic grappling with this problem over a period of years has done much to retard this process.
- (3) Most of the newer houses in the district are owned by the tenants and during recent years a very large number of the tenants of the older houses have been purchasing their homes and in the wake of such action improvement to the premises invariably follows.

To summarize, it would appear that ownership of the homes of the people, no longer a prerogative of absentee landlords, is passing into the hands of the people themselves, either directly by the tenant himself owning the house, or indirectly through the local Authority. Consequently repairs and renewals have been more readily forthcoming and many an old but potentially good house has been saved from the need to apply Secs. 11 or 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

4. It would appear that singling out the worst houses in the district would be a comparatively simple matter and that rehousing the displaced families would present the Council with few headaches, but in practice one finds matters not quite so simple. The human problem rarely becomes more apparent than in housing matters and one has to face such problems as :

- (1) Owner occupied houses with the owner very reluctant to give up a house for the ownership of which he has spent his life savings.
- (2) The owner who for sentimental reasons cannot leave the house where he has brought up his family and spent the major portion of his life if not all of it.
- (3) The old age pensioner who does not need a large Council house and who often doubts his ability to meet the higher rents.
- (4) The owner of an old house who has already spent much on its improvement and who intends to spend more.

These are problems which cannot be lightly set aside and although they all have their satisfactory solutions I trust that in meeting them the Council will apply their accustomed "human touch."

5. It will be noted from the appended list that the houses involved are situated in the old part of Ystradgynlais and Abercrave in what might be aptly called the "Canal Zone," a fact which obviously speaks for itself and also in the upper reaches of the district where, early in the century a number of slightly built temporary structures were allowed to be used as human habitations. These are built on damp, windswept exposed sites and the very nature of their construction and position renders them inadequate to provide a reasonable healthy accommodation particularly during the winter months. The remainder consists of houses here and there that have been allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair that they can now only be effectively dealt with in the manner recommended. The houses to be dealt with therefore are either isolated or are found in

small groups or streets and one should not think of our problem of slum clearance as being one in which whole blocks or streets or areas have to be cleared as one would find in some of the more populated and congested areas. I would therefore suggest that perhaps it would be better if we coped with them individually under Sec. 11 of the Housing Act rather than collectively under Sec. 25.

6. When detailed reports on these houses will be considered by the Council from time to time it is possible that some of the owners will be prepared to put forward practical proposals to improve the houses and to give an undertaking not to relet them until they have been rendered fit to the satisfaction of the Council. In some cases the Council may consider accepting such Undertakings.

7. Of the 92 houses listed it will be noted that nearly half, namely 44, are situated in the upper reaches of the district, 33 in the central Wards and the remaining 15 in Gurnos and Cwmtwrch. Whatever allocation may be granted for rehousing the displaced families the Council may feel like bearing these figures in mind with the view if possible of building them in the areas where they are needed.

8. The building of 92 houses for slum clearance purposes does not present a very formidable task to a Council like this and granted that the requisite allocation is forthcoming I see no reason why our slum problem, to all practical intents and purposes, could not be solved within the lifetime of the present Council. Of course one must bear in mind that to solve one's housing problem is actually an impossibility and when the above task has been accomplished the odd house will from time to time always crop up to be dealt with. Without the assurance of the number of houses to be allocated for the rehousing of displaced persons it is really impossible to stipulate a time for accomplishing this task, but assuming that a minimum of 20 houses per annum will be available then 5 years will easily see us through our task.

9. Intermingled with the problem of slum clearance is also the one of rehousing other needy cases and here I include a general picture of the situation in this respect. The number of applicants on our housing list at present is

603 in spite of the fact that 529 houses have been occupied between the end of the War and mid-June, 1955. Of this total number of applicants I consider that 193 should be considered as needy cases to be rehoused during the next 5 years and to this number I would add another 10 per annum to represent those cases that inevitably must enter this group as time goes on due to their changed family circumstances, such as increase in the family, etc. This brings the total to 243. From a geographical analysis of this one finds that the overwhelming majority live in the central Wards the actual figures being as follows:—

Castle Bridge upwards ... ..	30
Castle Bridge to Capitol ... ..	123
Gurnes Cross to Berrington ... ..	30
	<hr/>
Total ...	193
Plus 10 per annum ...	50
	<hr/>
	243
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Our minimum housing need for the next five years is as follows:—

(1) Number required to rehouse displaced families under Slum Clearance programme	92
(2) Number required to rehouse the most needy cases on waiting list ... ..	193
(3) Add 10 families per annum for 5 years to correct No. 2 ... ..	50
	<hr/>
	335
	<hr/>

The Annual need is therefore 67 or approximately 70 houses per annum.

# SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEDULE

Houses proposed to be dealt with  
under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936

## COLBREN WARD

- 1 St. Margaret's Llwynceilyn.
- 2 Bella Vista, „
- 3 1 Llwynceilyn.
- 4 3 „
- 5 5 „
- 6 7 „
- 7 9 „
- 8 11 „
- 9 Mount Pleasant Bungalow.
- 10 London House Bungalow.
- 11 Brynglas.
- 12 3 Bronygraig.
- 13 1 „
- 14 Redbrook.
- 15 1 Danygraig.
- 16 2 „
- 17 3 „
- 18 1 Nortons Bungalow.
- 19 2 Nortons Bungalow.

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19

## PENYCAE WARD

- 1 1 Bell Fach.
- 2 2 „ „
- 3 1 Powell Street, Penwyllt.
- 4 2 „ „ „
- 5 3 „ „ „
- 6 4 „ „ „
- 7 5 „ „ „
- 8 6 „ „ „
- 9 1 Penwyllt Cottages.
- 10 2 „ „

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10

## ABERCRAVE WARD

1	1	Brickyard Cottages.
2	2	„ „ „ „
3	1	Old Shop.
4	2	Old Shop.
5	1	Trefleming.
6	2	„
7	3	„
8	4	„
9	5	„
10	7	„
11	8	„
12	1	Llwynllafröd.
13	2	„
14	3	„
15	4	„

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15

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## PENRHOS WARD

1	6	Long Row Ynys Uchaf.
2	8	„ „ „ „
3	15	„ „ „ „
4	1	Cwmelyd.
5	1	Craigymaen Ynis Isaf.
6	2	„ „ „ „
7	1	Garden Cottage Ynis Isaf.
8	2	Bank Cottage Ynis Isaf.
9	3	James Street Ynis Isaf.
10	2	„ „ „ „
11	1	„ „ „ „
12	1	Watkins Terrace.
13	2	„ „
14	3	„ „
15	4	„ „

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15

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## YSTRADGYNLAIS SOUTH WARD

1	1	Howells Buildings.
2	3	" "
3	4	" "
<hr/>		
3		
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## CYNLAIS WARD

1	Penybont Row.
2	Penybont Row.
3	1, Bungalow, Gough Buildings.
4	2, " " "
5	18, Gough Buildings.
6	19, " "
7	20, " "
8	21, " "
9	22, " "
10	31, " "
11	10, Yorath Street.
12	11, " "
13	12, " "
14	Bungalow, Cwmgiedd.
15	Bungalow, Plasycod, Cwmgiedd.
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15	
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## GURNOS WARD

1	5, Henfelin.
2	6, " "
3	Pandy Cottage.
4	No. 1 Bungalow Penpark.
5	No. 2 " "
6	No. 1 Brickyard, Cwmtwrch.
7	No. 2 " "
8	No. 3 " "
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8	
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## CWMTWRCH WARD

1	Penrhiwgwys.
2	Pentwyn Farm.
3	1, Glyneynwal.
4	2,       ,,
5	3,       ,,
6	1 Glien Cottages.
7	2,       ,,       ,,
<hr/>	
7	
<hr/>	

## SUMMARY

Colbren	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Penycae	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Abercrave	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Penrhos	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Ystradgynlais (South)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cynlais	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Gurnos	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cwmtwreh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
									<hr/>
Total ...									92
									<hr/>

## RODENT CONTROL

The work of the Rodent Operator during the year is summarised as follows:—

	No. Treated	Points Laid	Estimated Killed	Bodies Found
SEWERS .....	All Sections	177	73	19
REFUSE TIPS .....	13	605	528	115
RIVER BANKS .....	19	550	460	133
PRIVATE PREMISES .....	423	2728	1472	418
BUSINESS PREMISES .....	10	122	120	38
TOTALS ...	465	4182	2653	723

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONS,  
Sanitary Inspector.







